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AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

National Agricultural Library

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REORGANIZING NAL TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE INFORMATION AGE

by Joseph H. Howard Director, NAL (301) 344-4248 The chailenges of the information age require that the National Agricultural Library (NAL) be restructured to reflect its expanded national and international responsibilities. A new organizational pian proposed by the NAL has been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and will be fully implemented as soon as possible. It is based upon changes either proposed or endorsed by the Interagency Panel for the Assessment of NAL (Blue Ribbon Panel) in its 1982 report to Secretary Block.

The primary objective of this restructuring is to revitalize and modernize the Library's operations and services, expand user access to a greater variety of agricultural information, and to coordinate and strengthen a national network of agricultural libraries with emphasis on development and adoption of standardized formats and procedures and on establishment of cooperative working arrangements with other libraries and concerned private and public institutions. The changes include the following:

- 1. Eliminate the Field and Special Programs Division as an organizational entity and place responsibility for NAL's cooperative relations in the Office of the Director.
- 2. Establish specific staffs to plan, develop, and implement at a high level new concepts of network coordination, database management, and collection development.
- 3. Strengthen the iibrary service area by organizing the reference function (of the Public Services Division) into agricultural subject areas, i.e., Farming & Forestry and Economics & Marketing as major units with further internal specialties.
- 4. Incorporate the former Food and Nutrition Information Center as a part of a Food, Nutrition and Human Ecology Staff. The scope of services provided by this staff will include all of human nutrition—related activities, as well as other people—family—and community—related subject areas.
- 5. Expand the information systems function to recognize the greater significance of computers, telecommunications, and other new technology in the operations of a modern library.

The proposed structure is intended to closely follow the new mission of NAL, emphasizing its role as one of three national libraries (National Agricultural Library, National Library of Medicine, and Library of Congress).

The elimination of the Field & Special Programs Division and movement of its functions to the Director's Office will assure the highest level support to NAL's cooperative relations with other libraries and institutions. The Director's office will directly manage priority issues in this area.

The second change is closely related to the first. It establishes two staffs in major priority areas that need immediate attention at the highest organizational level. Legislation dating back to 1962 identified NAL as a national library with responsibility for development of a national network of libraries. Specific efforts have been made since then in some areas, but as recent as last year, the Blue Ribbon Panel stated "No formal plan for the development of the network is being followed and no overall architecture for the larger Agricultural Science Information Network was identified." The proposed staff office of Network Coordinator and Data Base Manager would in part focus on that issue. As technology changes, additional library functions are automated, and more and more cooperators provide input to our databases, the necessity for nationwide coordination and leadership by NAL becomes more critical.

The Collection Development Staff will assess NAL's 1.8 million volumes, including materials in 50 languages from 150 countries, to determine appropriate collection development guidelines for NAL. Ultimately, all needed information should be available at NAL or other libraries within the U.S. Limited NAL resources, increasing costs of library materials, and the scope of world-wide publications made it impossible for NAL to maintain a complete collection of all necessary agricultural materials. The Gift and Exchange program, a closely related function, will also be managed by this staff.

The single most important recommendation from the Blue Ribbon Panel was the need for NAL to improve its services and programs. Over 20 specific recommendations were made in this area. The proposed new structure in the Public Services Division will consist of subject area units staffed by specialists with agricultural related backgrounds, as well as library degrees. With such a structure, NAL can deal more effectively with its main patrons—Federal and State researchers—while focusing more support on extension programs. Also, this will provide a natural link to USDA action agencies. The management and use of special databases and the relevance and usefulness of the materials acquired by NAL in each subject will also be enhanced by this structure.

Numerous actions have been initiated by us in the past year consistent with the Blue Ribbon Panel Report. I am confident this new organizational structure will enable the library to make further progress in fulfilling its responsibility as the nation's primary resource for agricultural information and as the largest agricultural library in the free world.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

April 20, 1984

Network Coordination/ Data Base Management Staff (Chief Vacant) Information Systems Division Pamela Andre, Chief Collection Development Staff Leslie Kulp, Chief Joseph Howard, Director Office of the Director Public Services Division (Chief Vacant) Food, Nutrition & Human Ecology Staff Robyn Frank, Chief Technical Services Division (Chief Vacant) Education & Information Staff Eugene Farkas, Chief

NEW CHIEF NAMED FOR NAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROGRAM

Joseph Howard, Director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), has announced the appointment of Pamela Q. J. Andre as the new chief of NAL's Information Systems Division.

A specialist in library automation, Ms. Andre has been Assistant Chief, MARC Editorial Division, at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., since 1981. Prior to that time, she worked as a systems analyst in the Library of Congress! Automated Systems Office where she was involved in the development of automated authority systems and the MARC input and retrieval system. She also was the interdepartmental coordinator for the development of publication standards for the NUC and LC Bibliographies.

In her new position, Andre will be responsible for NAL's automated data processing and computerized systems, including the programming of AGRICOLA, the Library's master bibliographic database containing 2 million citations.

Andre received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of New Hampshire and a master of library science degree from the University of Maryland.

NAL SEEKS PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is now proceeding to actively recruit for new professional staff members in the Public Services area. We are looking for subject specialists who have at least bachelor degrees in agricultural related fields in addition to a master's degree in library science. The Librarian Register is open for applicants who have a specialty in the physical and biological sciences. Any interested candidates should apply to the Office of Personnel Management to be rated for the Librarian Register, and if they are specifically interested in a position at NAL they should send a copy of

their application to the Director, NAL, at the time they submit this application to the Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20415. Information on how to apply for the Librarian Register is also available from the Office of Personnel Management.



DR. T. S. RONNINGEN TO RETIRE

Dr. Thomas S. Ronningen, director-atlarge, Northeast Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, will retire from his current position July 1 after 35 years of academic, administrative, and research work in agriculture. Twenty-three of those years were spent with CSRS and 12 with the University of Maryland. From 1949-56 he was with the University of Maryland's department of agronomy studying forage breeding and management techniques. He was principal agronomist for CSRS from 1956-63, and spent the next 16 years moving through the positions of assistant administrator, associate administrator, and acting administrator. In 1979 Ronningen returned to Maryland as Northeast Regional director-at-large and associate director of UMAES. As director-at-large, Ronningen helped to develop national policy for the State agricultural experiment station system representing his region and ESCOP.

MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C. ATTENDS EVENING LECTURE AT NAL

On March 27, Dr. Alan Fusonie, Historian and Assistant Chief for Special Collections gave a lecture/slide presentation illustrating the richness, diversity, and importance of rare/historical resources within NAL. His talk and special hands-on examination of selected unique research materials was followed by a wine and cheese reception. Among those in attendance were Ellen McCallister Clark, Librarian, Mount Vernon, John H. Rhodehamel, Director of Education and Public Relations, Mount Vernon, Letitia Yeandle, Curator of Manuscripts, Folger Shakespeare Library, Dr. Hiram Larew, ARS scientist and member of Associates NAL, Inc., and P. William Filby, former director of the Maryland Historical Society and leading authority on calligraphy, geneology, and the Star-Spangled Banner.



MICRO CORNER

INDEX TO ALIN

An index to Agricultural Libraries Information Notes (ALIN) has just been prepared on the IBM PC, using "PC-File" database management software. ALIN, of course, is the monthly newsletter of the National Agricultural Library. The index is composed of six fields: subject, title, volume, issue, date, and page. With a little experimentation, a suitable print format was developed which is easy to read. Several subject terms may be assigned a given article. An article entitled "SCS Oral History" might be indexed under "SCS" and under "Oral History." All information about the article is repeated following each of the two subject headings in the alphabetical index. The subject headings, and title words as well, are also searchable directly on the microcomputer, using Boolean logic and other special search capabilities.

Advantages of placing the index in a microcomputer are (1) ease of correction of data and addition or deletion of records, (2) continuous updating capability, (3) ability to refine data for a more sophisticated product, (4) instant printout, and (5) the relatively small amount of time required to produce an index.

In 1977 the Library contracted to have a 2-year index produced manually (Vol. 1-2, Jan. 1975-Dec. 1976). The project required 3 months time, much revision, and editing of camera-ready copy. The microcomputer-produced index took 24 hours of input time, another 4 hours of revision and correction of data for a total of 28 hours. This amount of time could be further reduced if the intellectual activity was handled by a professional librarian or editor and the inputting performed by a skilled typist.

The major disadvantage of this microcomputer-produced index may be aesthetic, when compared to a type-set index. A subject term will be repeated in association with each article indexed by that term, rather than appearing only once at the head of the list. The number of characters available in the title field proved to be an occasional hindrance, since we wanted to keep the printed page to the standard 8x11 size. If the printout is not to be used as camera-ready copy then the length of the field can be expanded to 65 characters.

Firm data on costs is not available. The earlier manual index cost around \$1,500. The personnel time involved on the microcomputer-produced index was under \$500. Learning how to use the system, with guidance from a knowledgeable individual initially and as needed, was easy and took very little time. If it seems desirable to recumulate the printed index, all that will be needed is to index and input the new articles, let the microcomputer re-sort the entire file alphabetically by subject, and print the new cumulative index.

--Leila Moran Education & Information, NAL (301) 344-3778

We are looking for items on new uses of microcomputers at other libraries as well as the NAL. Contributions for this column should be submitted to Samuel Waters, Associate Director, National Agricultural Library, Room 200, Beltsville, MD 20705.

APPOINTMENT

The British Library Board has announced the appointment of Kenneth R. Cooper to become chief executive of the British Library. He succeeds Sir Harry Hookway, chief executive since the inception of the British Library, who will retire at the end of August. Mr. Cooper has served as director general of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers since 1979.

LEILA MORAN, EDITOR OF ALIN, RETIRES



Leila Moran

The founder and only editor of the Agricultural Libraries Information Notes retired on April 28. A luncheon, held in her honor, was attended by 100 co-workers, associates, friends, and family. She was the Leader, Special Services and Products of the Education & Information Staff, served as Executive Secretary of the Associates NAL, Inc. for 14 years, and at the time of her retirement had served the Federal Government for 30 years.



Jayne MacLean (L) and Ellen Cook (Center) chat with Leila about the experiences they shared while together on the Reference Staff.



Alan Fusonie (L) and Leila worked closely together on NAL and Associates projects. Her contributions will be missed.





Before the program began, Leila enjoyed the lobster tail ordered especially in her honor. Seated at the head table with her are Joe Howard, Director, NAL (L) and Gene Farkas, Chief, Education & Information Staff (R).







Of course there were a few surprises! Gene Farkas presents Leila with a paint-by-number set (L) for her leisure time activities and a sand pail and shovel for the time she will be spending at her beach vacation home in Rehoboth, DE. Space did not permit us to show you the unique Waterford crystal candy dish and stunning mahogany and brass jewel chest presented by her many friends.



NEW BIBLIOGRAPHIES

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Ministerio da Agricultura, Philadephia,
PA, Biosciences Information Service, 3
v. 1983. (NAL Call No.:
Z5074.S73B5).

JAMES E. BOHLKE (1930-1982)
(ICTHTHYOLOGIST AT THE ACADEMY OF
NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA,
EXPERT ON SOUTH AMERICAN FRESHWATER
FISHES AND TROPICAL MARINE FISHES,
INCLUDES A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLISHED
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PROCEEDINGS OF A SEMINAR IN THE CEC
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ANIMAL WELFARE HELD AT THE RESEARCH
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COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. G.
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Reference Section, Room 111 National Agricultural Library Beltsville, MD 20705

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NAL-Q.B.--84-18. DOUBLE CROPPING AND INTERPLANTING, JUNE 1982-DECEMBER 1983. 115 citations from AGRICOLA. English only. Searched by Jayne T. MacLean. March 1984.

NAL--Q.B.--84-19. URBAN FORESTRY, JANUARY-DECEMBER 1983. 223 citations from AGRICOLA. English only. Searched by Jayne T. MacLean. March 1984.

NAL--Q.B.--84-20. ETHYLENE DIBROMIDE (EDB), 1970-1983. 160 citations from AGRICOLA. Language non-excluded. Searched by Maria G. Pisa. March 1984.

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NAL--Q.B.--84-22. MINI AND MICROCOMPUTERS IN AGRICULTURE. 261 citations from AGRICOLA. English only. Searched by Maria G. Pisa. March 1984.

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NAL--Q.B.--84-24. AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIANSHIP AROUND THE WORLD. 205 citations from AGRICOLA. Language non-excluded. Searched by Jayne T. MacLean. April 1984.

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***WOOD AS ENERGY. AN OVERVIEW: SMALL-LOT WOOD MANAGEMENT. Beltsville, MD, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, April 1984. (Agricultural Issues Overview No. 3). 15 p. Free.

***WOOD AS ENERGY. AN OVERVIEW: WOOD ENERGY MARKETS. Beltsville, MD, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, April 1984. (Agricultural Issues Overview No. 4). 12 p. Free.

***WOOD AS ENERGY. AN OVERVIEW: BIOMASS AS AN ENERGY RESOURCE—PROMISE AND PROBLEMS. Beltsville, MD, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, April 1984. (Agricultural Issues Overview No. 5). 24 p. Free.

***WOOD AS ENERGY. AN OVERVIEW: BIOMASS AS AN ENERGY RESOURCE—PROMISE AND PROBLEMS. Beltsville, MD, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, April 1984. (Agricultural Issues Overview No. 5). 24 p. Free.

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^{***}Order from U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, Education & Information Staff, Room 203, Beltsville, MD 20705. Tel. (301) 344-3937.



June 18-21: BIO ENERGY 84.
Gathenburg, Sweden. Contact: The
Swedish Bio-Energy Association,
Easing estraket 11, S-11266, Stockholm,
Sweden. Tel: 46-8-565693.

June 25-29: CHEMRAWN III (CHEMICAL RESEARCH APPLIED TO WORLD NEEDS). World Conference on Resource Material Convention. Congress Centre, The Hague, The Netherlands. Contact: CHEMRAWN III Congress Bureau, OLT Convention Services, Keizersgracht 792, 1017 EC Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

July 29-August 1: THE GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY OF SOIL CONSERVATION. 39th
annual meeting of the Soil Conservation
Society of America. Oklahoma City, OK,
Sheraton-Century Center Hotel.
Contact: Walt Peechatka, SC5A, 7515
Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA
50021. Tel: (515) 289-2331.

August 5-8: 75TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (AAEA). Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Ithaca, NY. Contact: Dept. of Agric. Economics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506.

August 5-9: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA. Fort Collins, CO. The meeting will include symposia on germplasm resources conservation and utilization and developmental plant genetics.

Contact: David Dilcher, Dept. of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

September 17-21: THIRTEENTH WORLD CONGRESS ON DISEASES OF CATTLE. Durban, Republic of South Africa. Contact: Prof. R. I. Coubrough, Chairman, Scientific Programme Committee, P. O. Box 35333, North Cliff 2115, Republic of South Africa.

October 21-26: CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY. 20th Annual Meeting. St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Contact: Walter I. Knausenberger, Chairman, Organizing Committee; Caribbean Food Crops Society; College of the Virgin Islands, P. O. Box 'L', Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S.V.I. 00850. Tel: (809) 778-0246.

October 21-26: CHALLENGES TO AN INFORMATION SOCIETY. 47th ASIS Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Franklin Plaza. Contact: ASIS, 1010 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Tel: (202) 659-3644.

December 11-12: ESCOP SPONSORED WORKSHOP
ON STATE AND FEDERAL LIAISON. Atlanta, GA.
Contact: Glen W. Goss, Director of
Agricultural Communications, The
Pennsylvania State University, 401
Agricultural Administration Bldg.,
University Park, PA 16802. Tel: (814)
863-2702.

December 2-4: 42ND PROFESSIONAL
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE (PAWC).
Tuskegee Institute, AL. Theme: "Strategy
for the Survival of Small Farmers in the
United States. Deadline for papers
submission is July 31, 1984. Contact:
Dr. T.T. Williams, Director, Human
Resources Development Center, P. O. Box
681, Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088. Tel:
(205) 727-8764.

1985

June 2-6: INFORMATION FOR FOOD. VII World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists. Ottawa, Canada. Contact: Canadian Planning Committee, IAALD 1985, Room 249, Sir John Carling Blvd., Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Canada, KIA OC5.

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES provides a channel of communication to technical information specialists, librarians, extension workers, researchers, and scientists on agricultural information activities. It is published monthly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705. Eugene Farkas, Editor, Marilyn M. Jacobs, Assistant Editor. (Tel: 301-344-3778).

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